

Applicant notes that U.S. Patent Nos. 5,430,298; 5,262,649; 5,187,369; European Patent Application No. 0 555 907 A1; and WO 98/36290 were cited in the form PTO-1449 in the Information Disclosure Statement submitted to the Office on October 27, 2003, and therefore Applicant has not cited them herein.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicant submits that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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